

From the Chairman's Desk

It is a privilege and distinct honour to take over the responsibility as the Chairman of the National Maritime Foundation, India's premier maritime think tank. India's maritime sector is at the cusp of a new dawn with a growing realization of the relevance of the maritime domain for India's growth. This focus is evident in the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's maritime vision.

A series of activities and initiatives such as the International Fleet Review (IFR) which was held in February 2016 on the eastern seaboard at Vishakhapatnam and the 'Maritime India Summit 2016', held on the western seafont at Mumbai in April 2016 have focussed attention on India as a maritime nation with vast maritime interests. During the International Fleet Review, the Hon'ble Prime Minister recalled India's vision for the Indian Ocean through 'SAGAR' (meaning ocean), which stands for 'Security and Growth for All in the Region'. Later, whilst inaugurating the Maritime India Summit 2016, the Hon'ble Prime Minister articulated his maritime vision for the nation. These events showcased India's growing maritime power and signalled a clear intent of a resurgent maritime nation. As the chairman of the NMF, it would be my endeavour to carry forward this maritime vision articulated by the nation's apex leadership.

The National Maritime Foundation's flagship journal, 'Maritime Affairs' which is published biannually will continue to be a medium to further this cause. The journal encourages scholars, academics and practitioners, both national and international, to contribute to the growing maritime discourse. It is our constant effort that the journal addresses emerging maritime issues from different perspectives to give a balanced view of the developments in the maritime sector. I hope that the journal continues to provide enduring reading and nurtures a healthy debate on contemporary maritime issues across the globe.

The National Maritime Foundation is also on the forefront of various academic engagements which contribute to discussions and brainstorming amongst maritime leaders. In this context, NMF's forthcoming Annual Maritime Power Conference is based on the theme of harnessing the 'Blue Economy'. The conference will focus on the fact that our vast maritime interests have a vital relationship with the nation's economic growth and project our vision as a vibrant maritime nation. We look forward to this event which is scheduled to be held in February, 2017 and invite all of you to participate and wholeheartedly support this event. Wishing you fair winds and following seas in 2017.

Admiral RK Dhowan, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd.)
Chairman, National Maritime Foundation